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A new subspecies of the Elepaio *Chasiempis sandwichensis*, from the Island of Hawaii

by H. Douglas Pratt

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The Elepaio *Chasiempis sandwichensis*, a monarchine flycatcher endemic to the Hawaiian Islands, exhibits a wide range of plumage variation. Early naturalists designated as many as 5 species (Stejneger 1887), but soon the fact that some of these represented females or immatures became apparent. Wilson & Evans (1890-99), Rothschild (1893-1900), Henshaw (1902), Perkins (1903), and MacCaughey (1919) recognized 3 species: *C. sclateri* of Kauai, *C. gayi* of Oahu and *C. sandwichensis* of Hawaii. Bryan & Greenway (1944) and most subsequent authors considered these forms conspecific. The Kauai and Oahu Elepaios exhibit little variation, but those from Hawaii are highly variable. The extent of this intra-island variation is apparent from the figures presented by Wilson & Evans (1890-99) and Rothschild (1893-1900).

Henshaw (1902) was the first to examine intra-island variation in *Chasiempis*. He concluded that 2 subspecies could be defined on Hawaii, the nominate

form occurring in the drier parts of the island, with a darker form, *C. sandwichensis ridgwayi*, found in the wet windward forests north and south of Hilo. Neither of these taxa is represented by a holotype, but Henshaw (1902) considered the type locality of *C. s. sandwichensis* to be Kealakekua Bay in Kona. No locality was designated for *C. s. ridgwayi*, and the name was based on a colour plate presented by Sclater (1885). Subsequent authors synonymized these races and generally ignored the intra-island variation of *C. sandwichensis* on Hawaii.

As part of a general systematic review of Hawaiian birds (Pratt 1979), I have re-examined Henshaw's specimens and compared them with others from most of the range of the Elepaio on Hawaii. I found that not only are Henshaw's subspecies valid, but a third recognizable form occurs on the high leeward slope of Mauna Kea, a part of the island not visited by earlier collectors. The details of this intra-island subspeciation will be published as part of the above-mentioned monograph, and in order that a name will be available for use in that discussion, I offer the following description (capitalized colour names from Smithe 1975) of the Mauna Kea population which may be called

***Chasiempis sandwichensis bryani* subsp. nov.**

Type. Adult ♂, collected 27 August 1976 by H. Douglas Pratt (original number 545) at Puu Laau, Hamakua District, Hawaii County, Hawaii, elevation c. 1950 m. No. 81725, Louisiana State University Museum of Zoology.

Diagnosis. Palest and greyest of all forms of *Chasiempis sandwichensis* on the island of Hawaii. Head devoid of rufescent colouration; forehead, lores, malar region, superciliary line, and partial collar pure white; crown and nape Brownish Olive; auriculars and back Olive-Brown; breast streaks Antique Brown.

Females differ from males in having more extensive white in the throat, bordered posteriorly by a dusky band; having more white in the head region; and in having paler breast streaks.

Immatures resemble those of other subspecies on the island but are paler on the forehead, crown, and nape.

Measurements. (Holotype, followed by mean \pm standard deviation and range of paratype series, mm) wing chord 75, 75 ± 2.7 , 72-79; tail 68, 65 ± 3.4 , 60-69; exposed culmen 12.9, 12.1 ± 0.5 , 10.9-12.9; bill width 6.1, 6.1 ± 0.2 , 5.6-6.4.

Paratyptic variation. One ♂ has a tinge of rufous along the upper border of the white superciliary line and forehead, with the crown dark reddish Amber. Six ♂♂ have an Amber tinge to the breast streaks. One ♀ has a slight rufous tinge to the facial colouration.

Range. This subspecies appears to be presently confined to the mamane-naio forest of leeward Mauna Kea above about 1800 m. Its distribution probably coincides with that of the Palila *Loxioides bailleui* (van Riper *et al.* 1978). Several older specimens from lower elevations where Elepaios no longer occur appear to be referable to this subspecies.

Specimens examined. Seven adult ♀♀, 14 adult ♂♂, and 2 immatures of unknown sex, all from the type locality.

Etymology. I am pleased to name this subspecies in honour of Edwin H. Bryan, Jr., of the Pacific Scientific Information Center, Bernice P. Bishop Museum, Honolulu. He has not only made valuable original contributions to biological studies in the Pacific, but has also provided information and assistance to several generations of other scientists including the author.

Henshaw's (1902) diagnosis of *C. s. ridgwayi* is sufficient to distinguish it from *C. s. bryani*, but his description of the nominate race could be misinterpreted. His series includes several specimens from the Kau District, far removed from the range of *C. s. bryani*, that are very close to the new subspecies in the colour of the pale areas of the head. He apparently based his diagnosis on these atypical specimens. The possibility exists that the Kau population represents another describable taxon, but more material must be

TABLE I

Plumage characters of the three subspecies of *Chasiempis sandwichensis* on the island of Hawaii

Character	<i>C. s. sandwichensis</i>	<i>C. s. ridgwayi</i>	<i>C. s. bryani</i>
Males			
Colour of breast streaks	Amber ¹	Chestnut to Amber	pale Amber to Antique Brown
Extent of breast colour	variable, never without streaks across breast	streaks tend to form solid colour band on breast	no solid colour, streaks often on sides only
Auriculars	Tawny to Cinnamon-Brown	averages darker than <i>sandwichensis</i>	Olive-Brown
Back colour	Cinnamon-Brown or Antique Brown	Cinnamon-Brown or darker	Olive-Brown
Colour of pale feathers of head	usually white tinged Cinnamon-Rufous rarely white	Chestnut/Amber to Cinnamon-Rufous never white	pure white
Crown colour	Amber or Cinnamon-Brown	dark reddish Amber or Amber	Brownish Olive
Females			
Colour of breast streaks	Cinnamon to Tawny	averages darker than <i>sandwichensis</i>	Tawny to Antique Brown
Extent of breast colour	variable	variable, often almost a solid colour band	dark streaks usually confined to sides
Dorsal colour	Antique Brown to almost Cinnamon	dark Cinnamon-Brown to Antique Brown	between Olive-Brown and Cinnamon-Brown
Colour of pale feathers of head	Cinnamon to white tinged with Cinnamon	dark Cinnamon-Rufous to white tinged with Cinnamon	pure white

¹Capitalized colour names from Smithe (1975).

collected before the status of *Elepaio* from that area can be determined. Table 1 compares 6 plumage characters for males and 4 for females of the 3 named subspecies of *Chasiempis sandwichensis* on the island of Hawaii. If the enigmatic Kau birds are ignored, the table can be used to identify almost all specimens.

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The correct name and authorship for Wallace's Standard Wing (Passeriformes, Paradiseidae)

by David K. McAlpine

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The modern standard works on the birds of paradise (Gilliard 1969, Cooper & Forshaw 1977) give the name and authorship of Wallace's Standard Wing as *Semioptera wallacei* Gould, and Gilliard further (p. 126) attributes the epithet *wallacei* to "Gould 1859, *Birds Australia Suppl.*, pl. 11 and text".

Semioptera wallacei appears on pl. 52, not pl. 11, of the cited work by Gould in the sequence in which it was to be finally bound. Gould's supplement was issued in 5 parts over the period 1851-1869. Pl. 52 was originally published in part 3 which appeared in September 1859, but the plate number 52 was apparently not designated until 1869 when advice on the sequence for binding the previously issued plates was given with part 5.